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August 2, 2005

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Madam Rebecca Garang Nyandeng Office of the First Vice President Rumbek, Southern Sudan

Dear Madam Garang:

It is with great sorrow that I extend my condolences to you, your family, and the people of Sudan for the tragic and untimely death of your husband, Dr. John Garang de Mabior, the Vice President of Sudan. Words are inadequate to express the sense of grief felt among his friends in the U.S. Congress.

Dr. John visited my office on several occasions and impressed me with his powerful intellect, energy, and vision for Sudan. His good humor, wit, and personality made these meetings some of the most enjoyable in my Congressional tenure. Your husband was a wonderful friend of the United States Congress and gained our confidence in his leadership during the long days of the civil war.

Dr. John's legacy in the liberation of Southern Sudan will inspire millions to strive for a dynamic and prosperous future for the people of Sudan. He gave his whole life for this purpose. Like other leaders, whose lives tragically were cut short, he will be revered for the dedication, perseverance and triumph in the long road to freedom.

Please accept my condolences at this difficult time. Your husband was a remarkable man, and his legacy will be felt in your country for generations to come. He is the Father of the new Sudan.

Sincerely yours.

TOM LANTOS
Ranking Member

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